

Law Enforcement (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700442

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The Sierra National Forest is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range east of Fresno between Kings Canyon National Park and Yosemite National Park, with the Stanislaus National Forest to the north and the Sequoia National Forest to the south. The Forest consists of two ranger districts, Bass Lake and High Sierra. The Forest provides OHV and OSV opportunities. The funding request would provide a year around law enforcement program for both ranger districts.

There are 20 Off-Highway Vehicle designated routes providing 102 miles of motorized trails and primitive roads. Recreation experiences range from challenging rock crawling to very primitive. In addition, there are 2,114 miles of roads open to all vehicles, including non-highway legal vehicles. The Forest has 605,000 acres open to cross-country travel by motorized vehicles until a Travel Management decision is implemented. The Forest also has a winter program with 234 miles of snow trails. During the winter, recreational residents use OSVs and ATVs to access over 500 recreational cabins located on forest lands in the Huntington Lake and Dinkey Creek Recreation Areas. The Huntington Lake area also has two businesses, Lakeshore Resort and Rancheria Enterprises, who rent snowmobiles to visitors throughout the winter season. Both businesses operate under special use permits.

The Sierra National Forest law enforcement program emphasizes compliance through public education and awareness. Law enforcement personnel work with OHV recreation staff and over 200 volunteers to provide year around education and enforcement on the Forest. OHV use on the Sierra National Forest is available year around for all types of vehicles. Law enforcement patrols will be conducted year around utilizing Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) and Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs). The purposed project will provide patrols to achieve compliance with state and federal laws concerning OHV /OSV operation. Officers will focus on OHV/OSV registration, spark arrestor compliance, wilderness incursion, and safety violations. The Sierra National Forest has four wilderness areas: Dinkey Lakes John Muir, Kaiser and Ansel Adams. There are challenging routes that are bordered by wilderness on one or both sides of the trails.

Sierra NF Law Enforcement does not currently have specialized equipment to patrol the difficult OHV routes, snowmobile routes or follow up on wilderness incursion. Therefore officers patrol routes with volunteers or recreation staff on snowmobiles, or specially equipped 4x4 vehicles. Specialized snowmobiles with long deep lug tracks will be necessary to go off groomed OSV routes to enforce wilderness incursion. ATVs would be used to patrol OHV trails that require a highly modified 4x4 vehicle or ATV to access the trails. A trailer with a fiberglass cover would be used to transport the snowmobiles or ATVs to and from trailheads. The cover is used to protect and maintain the vehicles from the sand and salt on the roads during winter transport. ATV manufactures now offer track kits that replace the wheels and would allow officers to patrol snow areas during the spring and fall months as legal and illegal off road use is year around. During the spring and fall, routes have mixed snow conditions with sections of dirt and gravel between areas of snow pack. Borrowed tracked ATVs have proved to be ideal to traverse the spring and fall terrain on past injured person / search and rescue incidents. The Forest has a diverse motorized system with roads and motorized trails open year around for all types of vehicles. ATVs with tracks would allow officers to patrol previously inaccessible areas during the spring and fall snow conditions where snowmobiles would be damaged if used. A grant to purchase ATV/OSV equipment would allow law enforcement to respond anywhere in the Forest to conduct compliance checks, verify wilderness intrusion and be able to respond to critical incidents along OHV and OSV trails

The purchase of the needed patrol vehicles (ATVs and snowmobiles) the Forest will be able to patrol areas where there are known hot spots for ATV use that Law Enforcement is unable to properly access without causing resource damage. The Bass Lake Ranger District does not have a winter trail program; however, OSVs travel various roads to access either private residences or access recreational experiences. On the Bass Lake Ranger District, there are four small developed campgrounds that OHV use is prominent. From those campgrounds, predominately ATVs, exit the facility to access native surfaced roads and create new opportunities to connect the roads. These visitors may be out all day and we cannot commit the LEO to wait in the campground for their return.

In summary, this grant is critical to sustaining current OHV routes for long term use and providing for public safety to the OHV community.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

There are currently approximately 605,000 acres open to cross-country motorized travel on the Forest until a decision is available to implement. The High Sierra Ranger District has 84 miles of OHV routes and 539 miles of roads open to all vehicles including non-highway legal vehicles. There is one snow park that provides parking and access to non-motorized snow trails. There are three snow parks providing parking snow play and staging for OSV use and access to 234 miles of designated snowmobile trails. There are 209 miles of groomed snowmobile trails maintained throughout the snowmobile season. There are approximately 72,800 acres available for cross county OSV use off groomed trails. The Bass Lake Ranger District has 18 miles of OHV routes open to four wheel drive vehicles, ATVs and motorcycles. There are 1,570 miles of roads open to all vehicles. It should be noted, due to the varying elevations, routes are available year around for all types of off highway vehicles. The road and trail system offers opportunities from beginning to expert. Several of the OHV routes have been featured in OHV magazines as places to recreate. The Forest has become an increasingly popular destination for the OHV visitors over the past few years. Additional funding through the State of California OHV Grants and Agreement program will assist the Forest with the law enforcement activities with the increasing number of motorized visitors.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) and Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) patrol forest areas seven days a week. LEOs and FPOs visit areas of OHV / OSV use during periods of high use. When available, one LEO visits motorized recreation events when held on the Forest. There are four large (350 to 500 visitors) motorized events under special use permit hosted by local OHV organizations during the summer months that would benefit from an additional law enforcement presence. The additional presence is needed to ensure OHV operators are staying on the designated routes and to prevent alcohol related injuries or accidents. In the past, voluntary motorcycle and ATV peak noise levels were checked in the Miami Motorcycle Area. There is a need to implement noise level testing in areas of high ATV and motorcycle use on the Forest. Additional law enforcement funds would allow FPOs and LEOs to continue with such events, be able to patrol more than just the trailheads, and based upon law enforcement efforts produce more visitors who recreate lightly on the land and enjoy their recreation pursuits.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

The Sierra National Forest has six Law Enforcement Officer's (LEOs) and one Patrol Captain who patrol on a daily basis. There are 34 Forest Protection Officer's (FPOs) who also patrol the Forest on a daily basis. Six FPOs are in OHV related positions and actually patrol trailheads and routes. LEOs are sworn officers with full law enforcement authority to issue citations and make physical arrests. FPOs are authorized to issue citations. In addition, the Sierra National Forest has a volunteer program with over 200 volunteers who report violations and provide education to the public. In addition, the volunteers offer the use of specialized OHV equipment to assist in the Law Enforcement mission.

LE Certification

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Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

The Forest has areas with increasing use during the winter months by OHVs. There are issues with vandalism at the staging areas, creation of additional non-system trails, damage to meadows and impacts to other natural and cultural resources. There are large dispersed camping areas along side creeks. These areas attract people to spend the night and use ATVs all hours. Law enforcement needs to patrol these areas especially Friday and Saturday nights. There are seven designated routes with 48 miles that are bordered by wilderness and experience periods of wilderness incursion.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

The purposed project will serve to improve law enforcement presence to prevent OHV related violations before they occur. The grant will also allow additional public education as to legal riding areas and help to sustain current off highway routes by preventing resource and cultural damage. In addition, the project will increase public safety through both education and enforcement.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

The Sierra National Forest is located within Mariposa, Madera and Fresno Counties. Law Enforcement Officer's (LEOs) routinely work OHV patrol in patrol cars, motorcycles and on foot during the summer OHV season. In addition, the Forest contracts with each county for a Deputy to patrol forest lands during the summer season. A portion of the Deputies duties include OHV enforcement. LEO's routinely partner with a Department of Fish and Game Warden or Deputy to patrol lakes on OHV and OSV routes. California Highway Patrol also works with LEO's to investigate OHV/OSV accidents involving serious injury or death.

LEO's are routinely called upon to assist with medical calls, OHV accidents, and search and rescue calls. In addition, LEO's work and coordinate with Shaver Lake Fire Department, Huntington Lake Fire Department, American Ambulance Star Rescue Team, Madera-Mariposa Fire and CAL Fire with injured person calls on the forest lands.

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4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? ☐ Yes ☒ No

(Please select Yes or No)

Explain

Law enforcement does not current receive any of the recovered costs associated with the four recreation events sponsored by local OHV groups. The average annual income for these four events is \$1,200 which does not fully pay for the person monitoring these events for special use compliance.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? ☒ Yes ☐ No (Please select Yes or No)

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

Law Enforcement Offices (LEOs) attend an 18 week Basic Law Enforcement academy and a three month field training officer program where they receive training specialized to resource protection. Forest Protection Officers (FPO's) attend a 32 hour training course and attend an eight hour update training each year. In addition, all Forest OHV operators receive training through the ATV/Motorcycle Safety institute with additional training each year to remain qualified. OSV operators receive eight hours of training in OSV operation and participate in several training rides before being certified. Personnel are sent to State Parks OHMVR or local POST certified training to get legal updates, spark arrestor training, and sound training.

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7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:

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10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
- The Sierra National Forest uses a combination of federal appropriated funds, OHV grant funds, volunteer labor and contributions to meet our operation and maintenance. In additions, Law Enforcement and Forest recreation personnel have worked with several clubs and volunteer organization on restoration, trail maintenance, site projects, and providing public information.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - Sierra NF - Patrol District		
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-02-35-L01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The Sierra National Forest is located in the Sierra Nevada mountain range east of Fresno between Kings Canyon National Park and Yosemite National Park, with the Stanislaus National Forest to the north and the Sequoia National Forest to the south. The Forest consists of two ranger districts, Bass Lake and High Sierra. The Forest provides OHV and OSV opportunities. The funding request would provide a year around law enforcement program for both ranger districts.</p> <p>There are 20 Off-Highway Vehicle designated routes providing 102 miles of motorized trails and primitive roads. Recreation experiences range from challenging rock crawling to very primitive. In addition, there are 2,114 miles of roads open to all vehicles, including non-highway legal vehicles. The Forest has 605,000 acres open to cross-country travel by motorized vehicles until a Travel Management decision is implemented. The Forest also has a winter program with 234 miles of snow trails. During the winter, recreational residents use OSVs and ATVs to access over 500 recreational cabins located on forest lands in the Huntington Lake and Dinkey Creek Recreation Areas. The Huntington Lake area also has two businesses, Lakeshore Resort and Rancheria Enterprises, who rent snowmobiles to visitors throughout the winter season. Both businesses operate under special use permits.</p> <p>The Sierra National Forest law enforcement program emphasizes compliance through public education and awareness. Law enforcement personnel work with OHV recreation staff and over 200 volunteers to provide year around education and enforcement on the Forest. OHV use on the Sierra National Forest is available year around for all types of vehicles. Law enforcement patrols will be conducted year around utilizing Forest Protection Officers (FPOs) and Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs). The purposed project will provide patrols to achieve compliance with state and federal laws concerning OHV /OSV operation. Officers will focus on OHV/OSV registration, spark arrestor compliance, wilderness incursion, and safety violations. The Sierra National Forest has four wilderness areas: Dinkey Lakes John Muir, Kaiser and Ansel Adams. There are challenging routes that are bordered by wilderness on one or both sides of the trails.</p> <p>Sierra NF Law Enforcement does not currently have specialized equipment to patrol the difficult OHV routes, snowmobile routes or follow up on wilderness incursion. Therefore officers patrol routes with volunteers or recreation staff on snowmobiles, or specially equipped 4x4 vehicles. Specialized snowmobiles with long deep lug tracks will be necessary to go off groomed OSV routes to enforce wilderness incursion. ATVs would be used to patrol OHV trails that require a highly modified 4x4 vehicle or ATV to access the trails. A trailer with a fiberglass cover would be used to transport the snowmobiles or ATVs to and from trailheads. The cover is used to protect and maintain the vehicles from the sand and salt on the roads during winter transport. ATV manufactures now offer track kits that replace the wheels and would allow officers to patrol snow areas during the spring and fall months as legal and illegal off road use is year around. During the spring and fall, routes have mixed snow conditions with sections of dirt and gravel between areas of snow pack. Borrowed tracked ATVs have proved to be ideal to traverse the spring and fall terrain on past injured person / search and rescue incidents. The Forest has a diverse motorized system with roads and motorized trails open year around for all types of vehicles. ATVs with tracks would allow officers to patrol previously inaccessible areas during the spring and fall snow conditions where snowmobiles would be damaged if used. A grant to purchase ATV/OSV equipment would allow law enforcement to respond anywhere in the Forest to conduct compliance checks, verify wilderness intrusion and be able to respond to critical incidents along OHV and OSV trails</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Sierra NF - Patrol District
Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	<p>The purchase of the needed patrol vehicles (ATVs and snowmobiles) the Forest will be able to patrol areas where there are known hot spots for ATV use that Law Enforcement is unable to properly access without causing resource damage. The Bass Lake Ranger District does not have a winter trail program; however, OSVs travel various roads to access either private residences or access recreational experiences. On the Bass Lake Ranger District, there are four small developed campgrounds that OHV use is prominent. From those campgrounds, predominately ATVs, exit the facility to access native surfaced roads and create new opportunities to connect the roads. These visitors may be out all day and we cannot commit the LEO to wait in the campground for their return.</p> <p>In summary, this grant is critical to sustaining current OHV routes for long term use and providing for public safety to the OHV community.</p>
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Supervisor Notes : Patrol Captain	10.000	473.000	DAY	0.00	4,730.00	4,730.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	20.000	293.000	DAY	0.00	5,860.00	5,860.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	20.000	317.000	DAY	0.00	6,340.00	6,340.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	20.000	391.000	DAY	0.00	7,820.00	7,820.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	20.000	302.000	DAY	0.00	6,040.00	6,040.00
	Law Enforcement Officers	20.000	364.000	DAY	0.00	7,280.00	7,280.00
	Other-Forest Protection Ofc	40.000	128.000	DAY	3,840.00	1,280.00	5,120.00
	Other-Forest Protection Ofc	12.000	293.000	DAY	2,637.00	879.00	3,516.00
	Other-Forest Protection Ofc	40.000	163.000	DAY	4,890.00	1,630.00	6,520.00
	Other-Forest Protection Ofc	40.000	128.000	DAY	3,840.00	1,280.00	5,120.00
	Other-Foret Protection Ofc	15.000	128.000	DAY	1,440.00	480.00	1,920.00
	Other-Overtime for events	14.000	410.000	SET	5,400.00	340.00	5,740.00
	Other-Forest Protection Officer	15.000	128.000	SET	1,440.00	480.00	1,920.00
	Total for Staff				23,487.00	44,439.00	67,926.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
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	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Safety Equipment Notes : equipment for Law Enforcement Officers for snowmobile riding.	6.000	200.000	SET	0.00	1,200.00	1,200.00
	Safety Equipment Notes : winter personal protection equipment for Law Enforcement Officers.	6.000	600.000	SET	3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00
	Safety Equipment Notes : summer personal protection equipment for Law Enforcement Officers	6.000	200.000	SET	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				4,800.00	1,200.00	6,000.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Notes : Federal replacement costs (FOR) 8 vehicles at different rates	3.000	430.000	MOS	0.00	1,290.00	1,290.00
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Notes : mileage costs for 8 vehicles	6000.000	0.260	MI	0.00	1,560.00	1,560.00
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	24.000	181.000	MOS	0.00	4,344.00	4,344.00
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	3000.000	0.050	MI	0.00	150.00	150.00
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	13.000	487.000	MOS	0.00	6,331.00	6,331.00
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance	26000.00 0	0.350	MI	0.00	9,100.00	9,100.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				0.00	22,775.00	22,775.00
5	Equipment Purchases						

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Sierra NF - Patrol District
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3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-Snowmobiles	2.000	12000.000	EA	24,000.00	0.00	24,000.00
	Other-ATVs Notes : ATV purchase \$8,500 based upon internet research. Requesting change of tires for the local terrain, addition of 2500 lb winch kit, emergency lights, and racks with soft bags attached to the racks for front and back storage of gear. All items were recommended to be installed and purchased as one unit.	2.000	10000.000	EA	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00
	Other-tow trailer with clam shell Notes : trailer can be used in the summer to tow the ATVs to the trailhead; can be used in the winter to tow the snowmobiles to the trailhead.	1.000	3500.000	EA	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00
	Other-emergency lights	4.000	300.000	EA	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
	Other-Track kit for ATV Notes : allows the ATV to be used year round.	1.000	3000.000	EA	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
	Total for Equipment Purchases				51,700.00	0.00	51,700.00
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs	1.000	7600.000	SET	0.00	7,600.00	7,600.00
	Total Program Expenses				79,987.00	76,014.00	156,001.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				79,987.00	76,014.00	156,001.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				79,987.00	76,014.00	156,001.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: USFS - Sierra NF - Patrol District
Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	23,487.00	44,439.00	67,926.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	4,800.00	1,200.00	6,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	22,775.00	22,775.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	51,700.00	0.00	51,700.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	7,600.00	7,600.00	
Total Program Expenses		79,987.00	76,014.00	156,001.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		79,987.00	76,014.00	156,001.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		79,987.00	76,014.00	156,001.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment